



BASIS FOR ACTION





B A S I S

Create a definite plan for carrying out your desire and begin at once, whether you're ready or not, to put this plan into action.

Napoleon Hill

“Basis of Action”

Macomb County has been one of the consistently fastest growing counties in Michigan for many decades, and due to more affordable land and low taxation rates, the county will likely continue to see significant population growth and large tracts of lands developed. Most often, at least 3 or 4 Macomb County communities have been ranked in Michigan’s Top 10 growth communities, and of most recent, Macomb Township, Chesterfield Township, Shelby Township and Washington Township were included in these annual statistics.

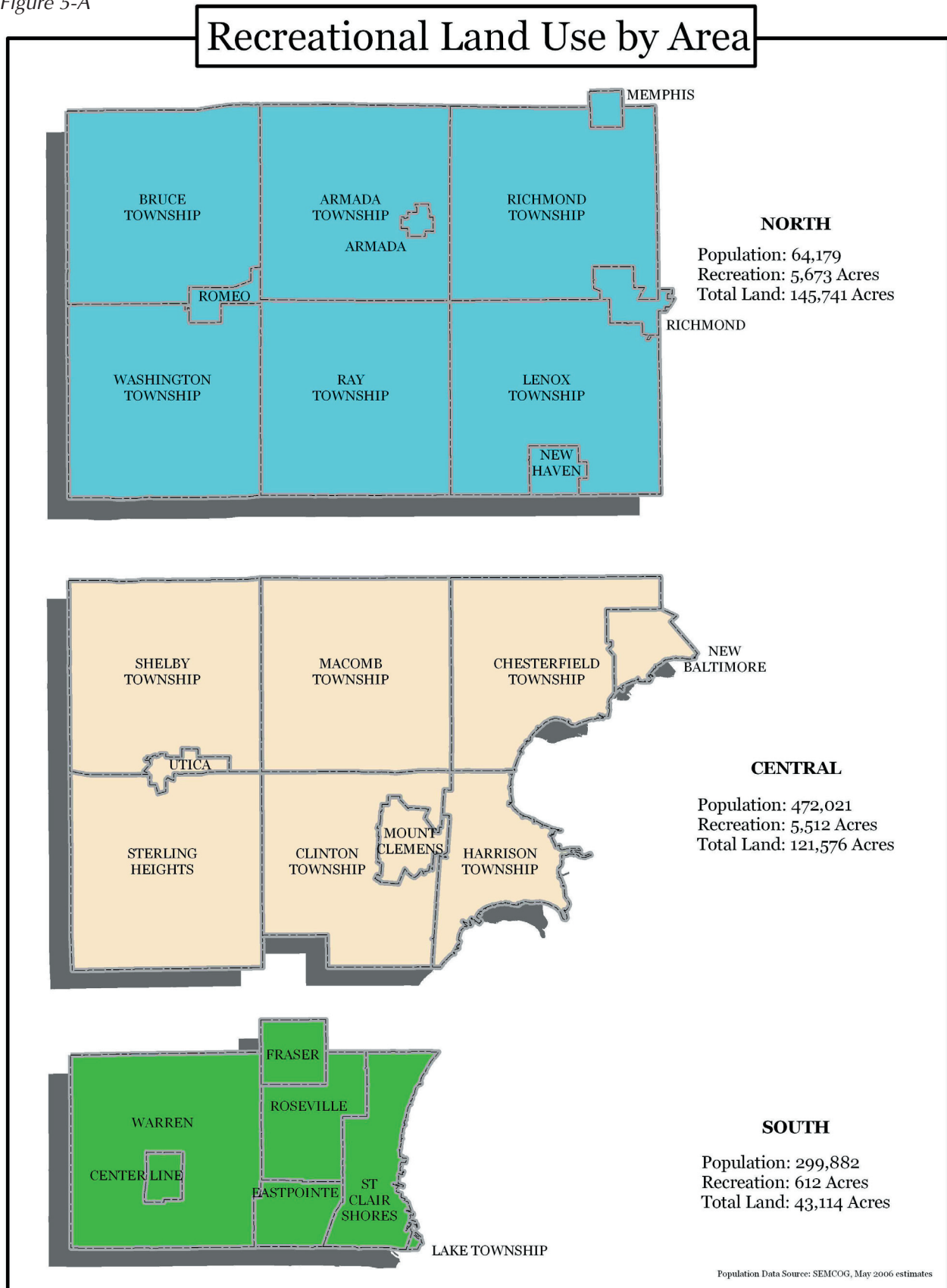
The accessibility to local highways and State trunk lines has allowed residents to rapidly move further out from the communities closer to Detroit and is resulting in large tracts of land that are agricultural, wooded, or with wetlands to be turned over to development. Many local governments and the Macomb County government are looking at ways to develop with greater concern for preservation of natural features, sustenance of established areas, and in ways that will allow for better storm water control.

While the overall population of Southeast Michigan and Macomb County will continue to grow at a moderate rate, the amount of land acreage consumed per household continues to grow at an even faster rate than the population. This trend means that more infrastructure must be built for these physically larger households, but actually serves less people per acre.

Another major influencing factor within Macomb County is its access to both the shorelines of Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, as well as the Clinton River and its tributaries. The proximity of these water features have significant impacts on the quality of life for Macomb County residents; however, access is somewhat limited due to large areas being privately owned or controlled by the United States military compound at Selfridge National Guard Base.

There are many things that have occurred, have been developed, or are planned within Macomb County that will play a role in parks and recreation planning. The following items should be considered as it relates to parks and recreation development for existing areas, but also open space land preservation in areas that are currently undeveloped.

Figure 5-A



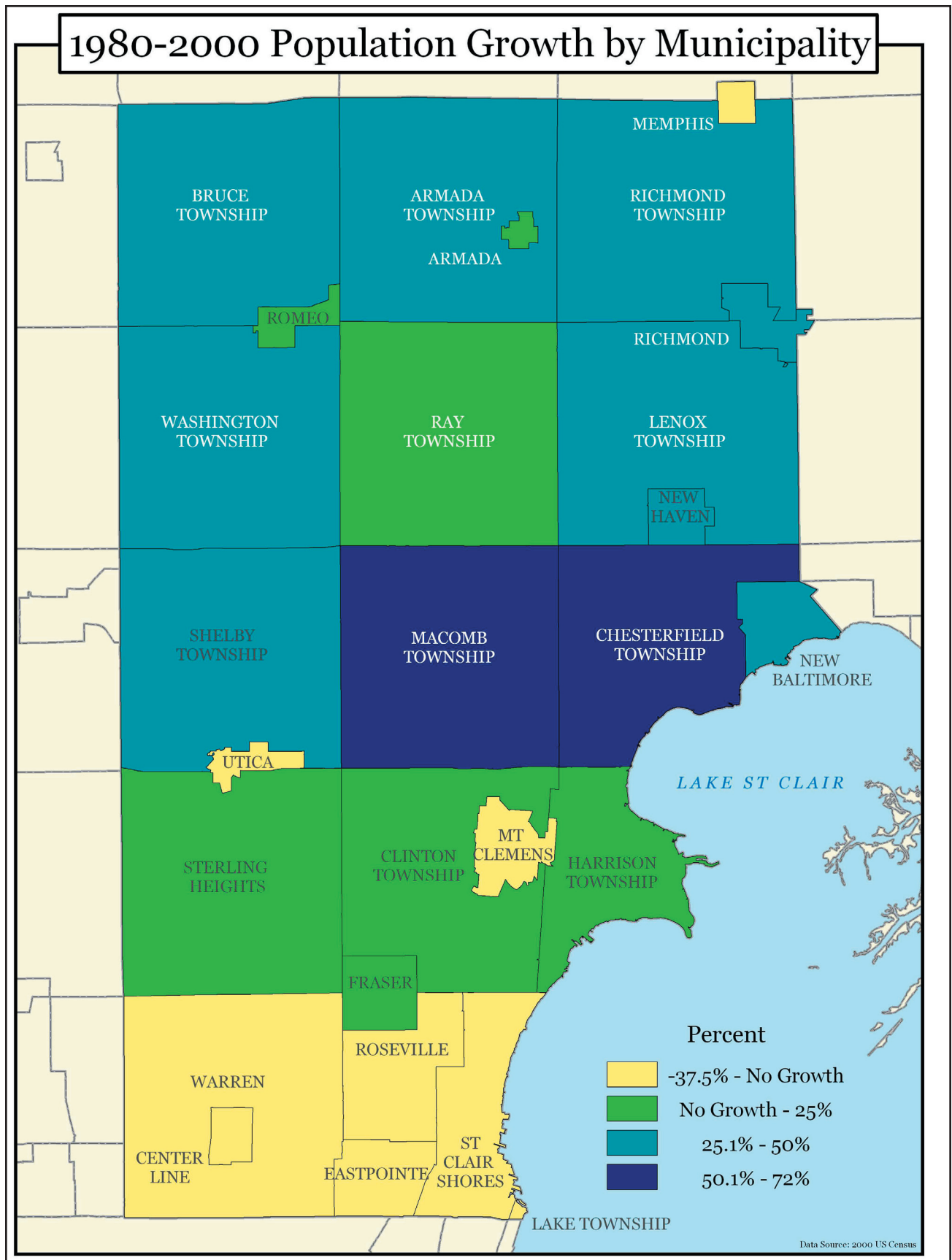
GROWTH PATTERNS FROM 1980 – 2000.

Only the “Inner- Ring” suburbs that border Detroit and the older incorporated cities of Utica and Mt. Clemens saw any decrease in population growth. The decrease in population is mostly realized through the shrinking of the American household size.

The “Middle –Tier” suburban areas that include Sterling Heights, Clinton Township, Fraser, and Harrison Township saw significant growth of up to 25%.

Most other “Northern Communities” saw very substantial growth of 25.1 to 50%. Ray Township, Romeo, and the Village of Armada also saw a similar rate of growth while Chesterfield Township and Macomb Township saw an unprecedented rapid growth rate of 50.1 to 72%.

Figure 5-B



GROWTH PATTERNS FROM 2000 – 2030.

All of the same communities that saw small population decreases through shrinking household size are anticipated to see similar reductions with the exception of the City of Utica.

Sterling Heights, Fraser, Clinton Township, Harrison Township, and Utica will continue to see nominal growth for the next 20 - 30 years as remaining vacant lands and infill projects take place to offset any decreases in household size.

Shelby Township, New Haven, and Romeo are projected to have significant increases of population of 25.1 to 50%. Macomb Township, New Baltimore, Washington Township, Bruce Township and Ray Township will see growth rates of 75.1 to 120.4% over the next 20 - 25 years. Chesterfield, Lenox Township, Armada Township, and the City of Richmond will also see fast growth at a level of 50.1 to 75%.

WHAT DO THESE GROWTH TRENDS MEAN?

The older communities and the fast growth communities will see a larger number of households occupied by the senior population. Sensible growth tools should be guided by strong Master Plans and sustainable development will become very important for the sustenance of Macomb County communities.

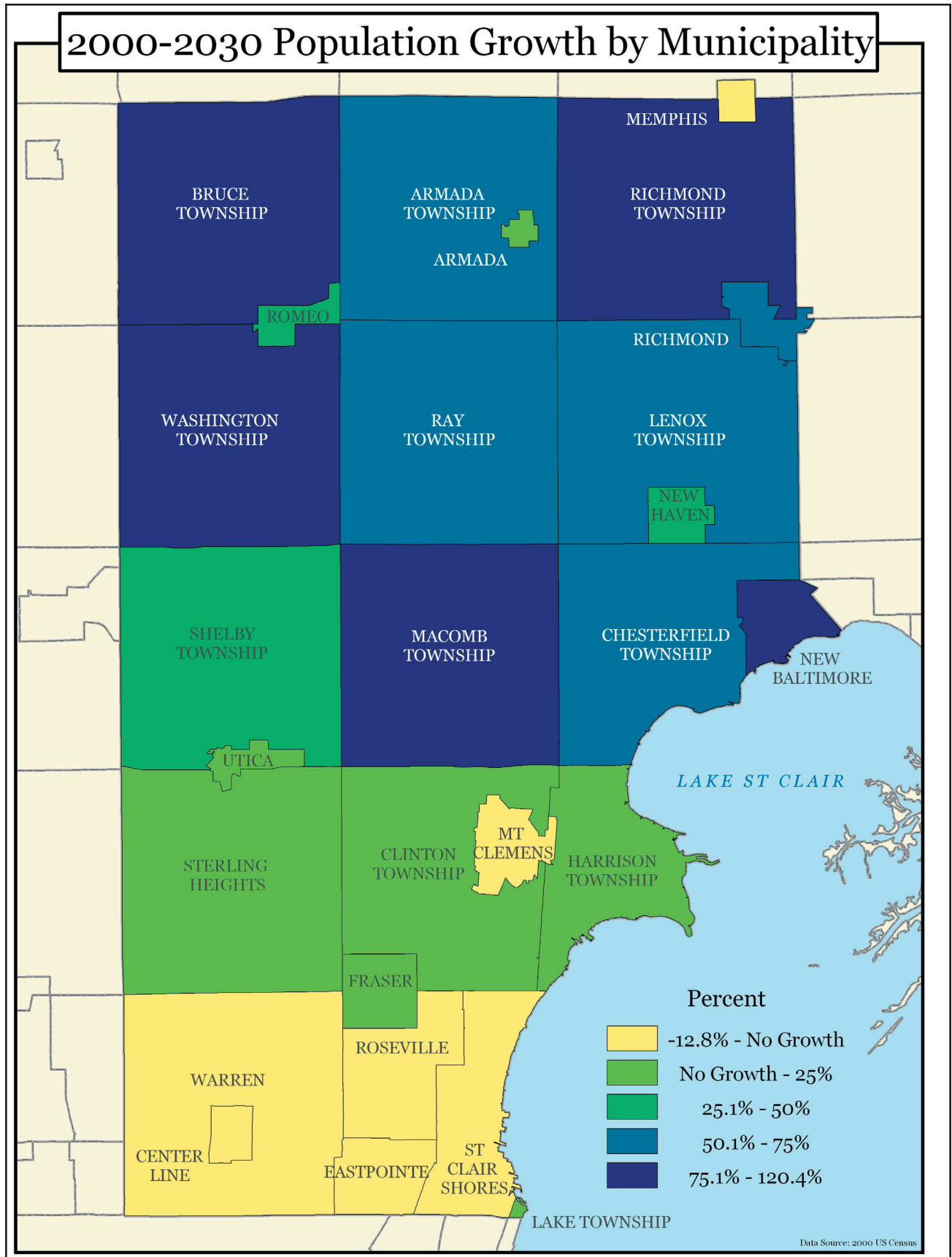
DO MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITIES MEET NATIONALLY ACCEPTED RECREATIONAL STANDARDS?

In 2001, nationally, the amount of money spent on parks and recreation averaged \$80 per resident. The National Research & Services Center suggests that an average of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of land should be set aside per each 1,000 residents in open space, parks, or recreational areas. In October 2006, the population of Macomb County was estimated at 839,000; which means that there should be approximately 5,200 to 8,800 acres set aside for open space, parks, or recreational areas within the County. With an expected rapid increase of population, by the year 2030, the number of open space, parks, or recreational areas should increase by a minimum of 11 % (10.89 %) to equal 5,800 to nearly 9,800 acres. This is a minimum net increase of 600, or a greater need of about 1,000 acres.

The amount of land listed as open space, parks, or recreational in the year 2004 for Macomb County was estimated at approximately 11,100 acres; however, the

majority of these lands were undeveloped or lacked facilities. Moreover, at least four major golf courses in the county have recently been sold for residential, commercial, or other developments. This means that approximately 1,100 acres (or 10 percent) has been removed for development and slated for non-recreational uses. Thus a major net loss of recreational and open space land is a current trend without a net increase of additional parklands currently planned.

Figure 5-C



HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE OF MACOMB COUNTY

Today, Macomb County is easily recognizable due to its 27-mile shoreline along Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay. Present day Harrison Township is the result of tens of thousands of years of soil erosion that has been transported by the Clinton River and these deposits now make up the river delta area.

The county has two noticeable moraine ridges, which are linear uplands that are the results of deposits left from former glacial ice ages. The moraine that runs on a northeasterly diagonal from the area near Fraser up to the area just west of New Haven is the older of the moraines within the County. This older moraine has less altitude than the more pronounced moraine that is located in the very northwest portion of the county. The Fraser to New Haven moraine is historically much older and has been completely covered by water after the melting of a more recent glacial period.

The newer moraine that is part of a much larger complex of glacial deposits that runs from South Central Michigan all the way to west of Port Huron is very visible in [the illustration] based on true land forms. This moraine, which occupies the western half of Shelby, Washington, and Bruce Townships represent the highest elevations within Macomb County. The highest point is located at Mt. Trombley within the Ford Motor Company Proving Grounds at 1,167 feet above sea level. The Lacustrine Plain is the outwash flood area from the most recent ice age and also provides the County with soils that are very suitable for agricultural purposes. This plain represents a gradual flattened slope from the northwestern moraine highlands all the way to Lake St. Clair, which has a mean surface altitude of 573 feet.

Figure 5-D

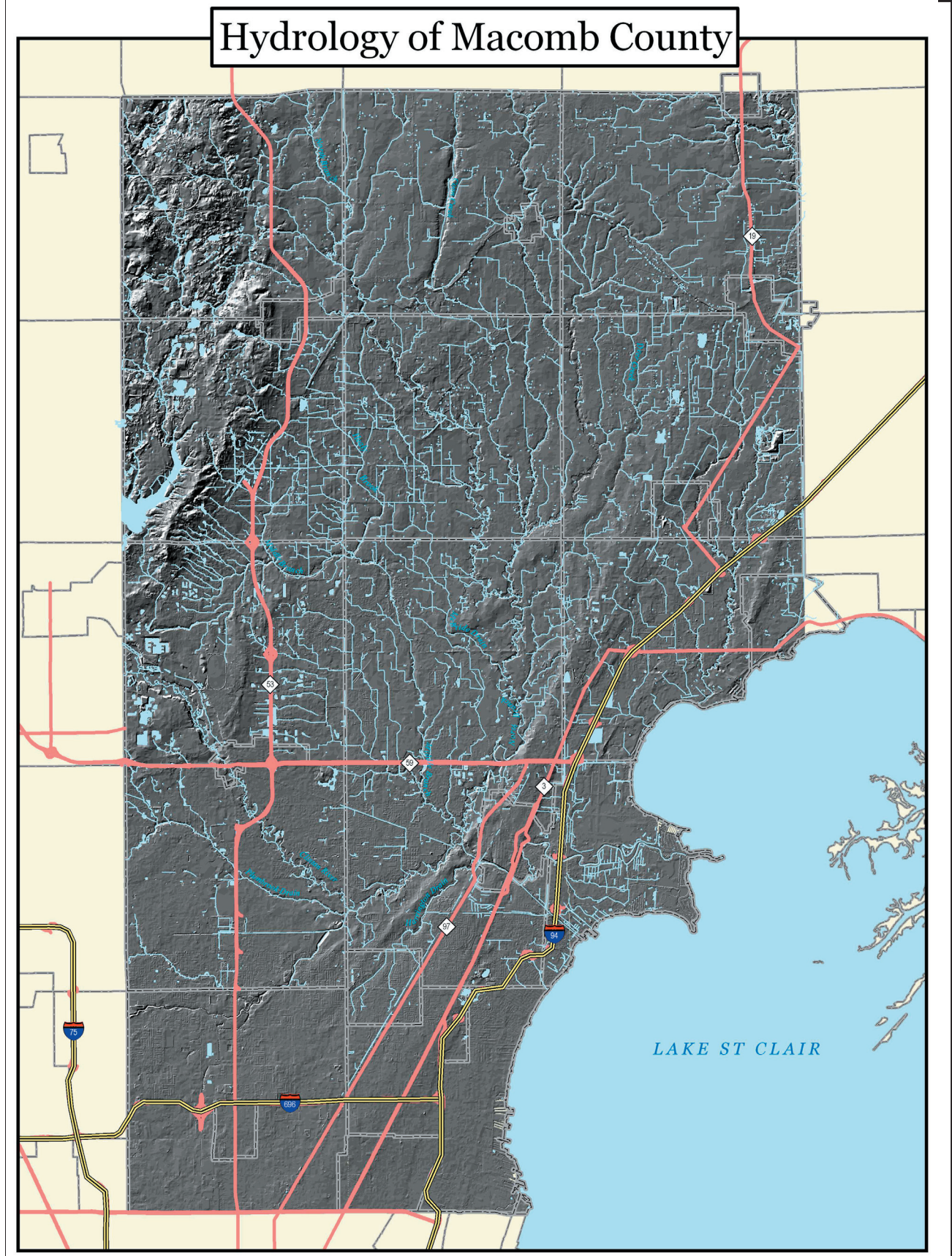


Figure 5-E

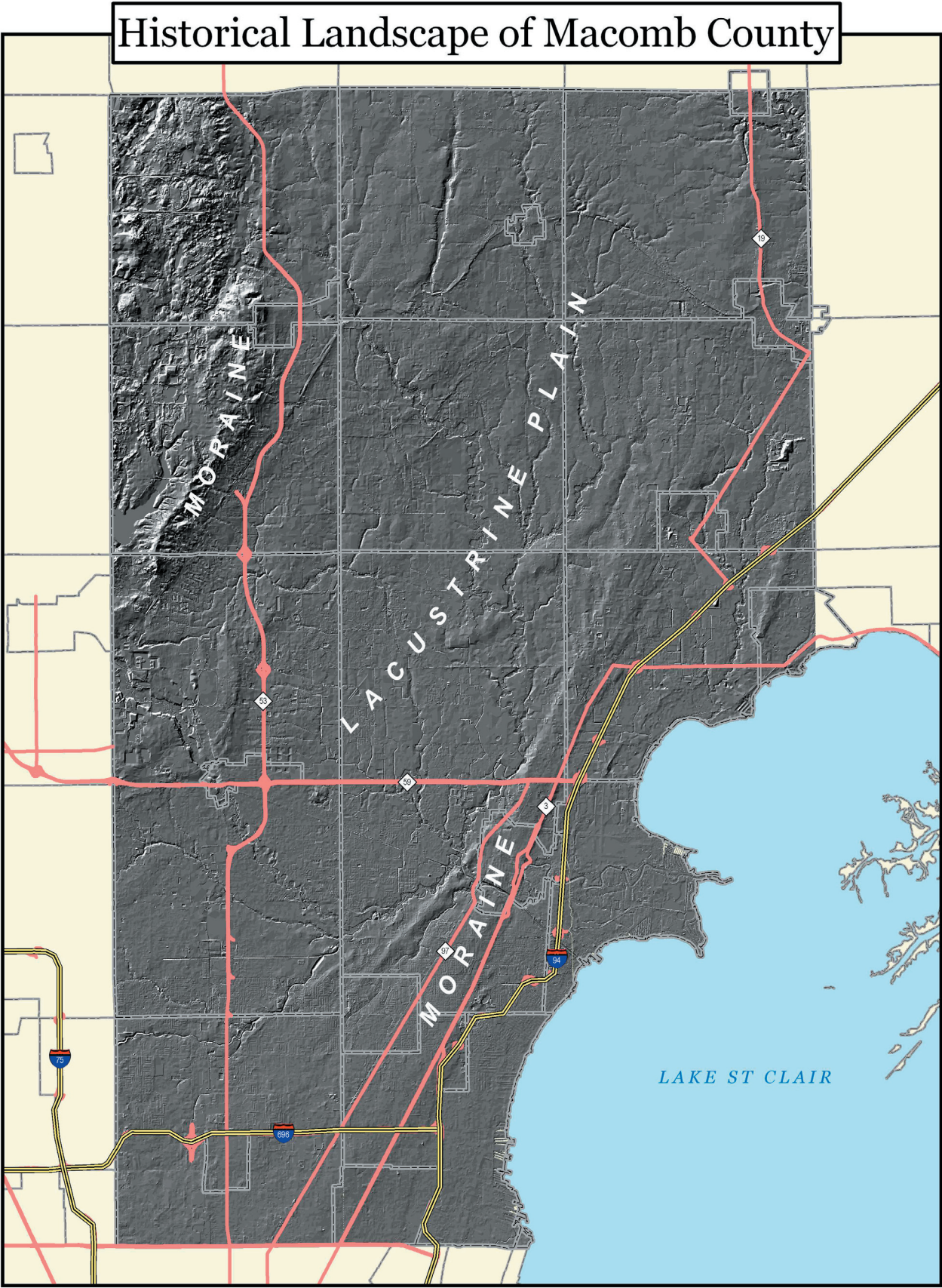
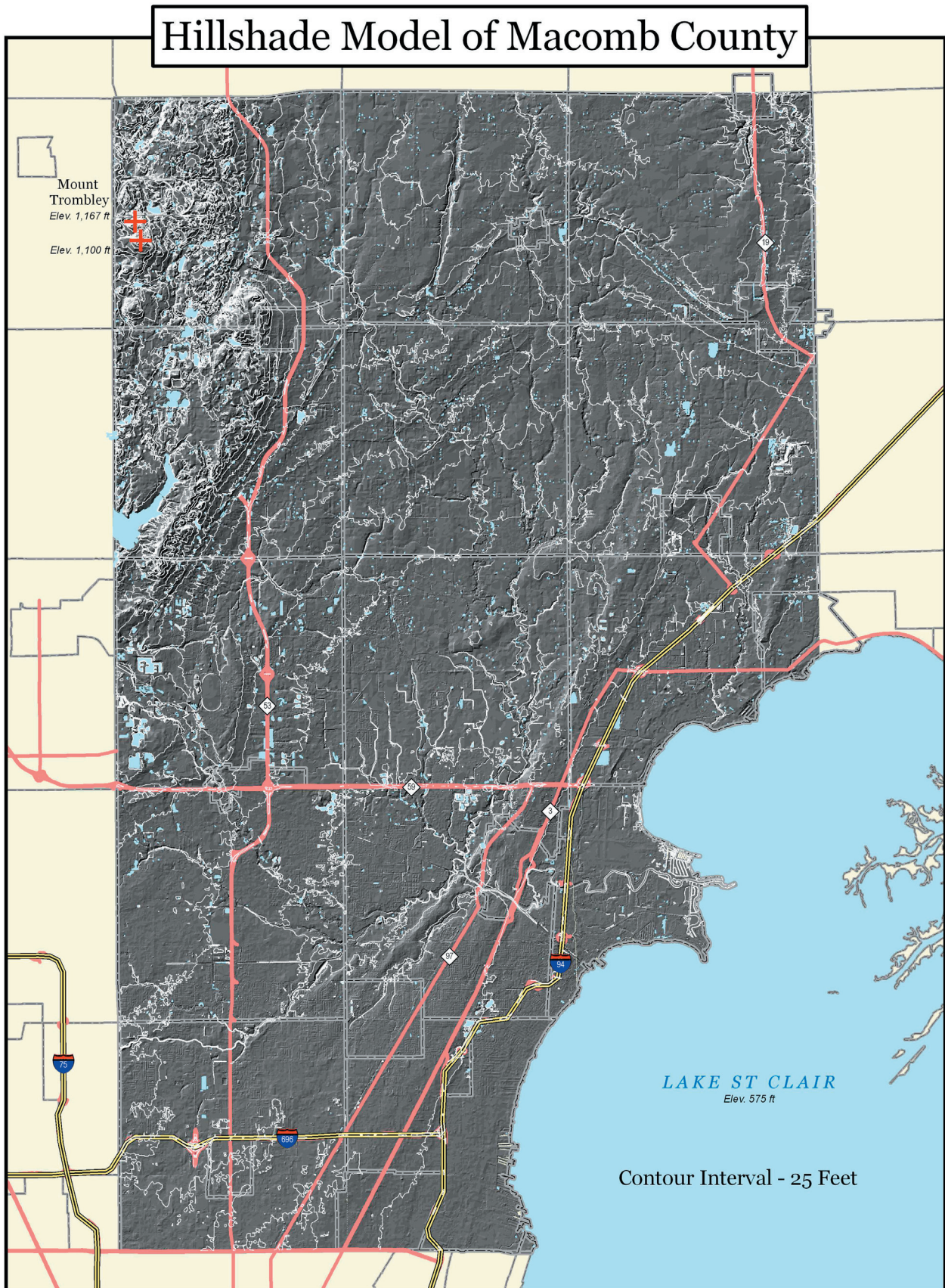


Figure 5-F



WATER RESOURCES OF MACOMB COUNTY

Macomb County has two significant water features that are unique compared with most of Southeast Michigan. The shorelines of Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay along with the extensive riverine attributes of the Clinton River and its tributaries have a direct impact on the way many Macomb County residents and visitors recreate. There are forty-four marinas and boat clubs within Macomb County that provide both private and public access for thousands to Lake St. Clair and the navigable portion of the Clinton River, and Anchor Bay. A labyrinth of canals, channels, and other features have been developed that allows greater access to the main waterways for a variety of water sports, fishing, or leisurely activities. The total linear number of miles of shoreline is nearly doubled from the natural 27 miles when including these man-made canals, channels, and passages that allow for enhanced water vessel traffic. Another approximately 22 miles of navigable portions of the Clinton River also support thousands of boats slips to increase access to Lake St. Clair. In total, about 74 miles of coastal areas lend themselves to boating opportunities within Macomb County.

With Macomb County's significant reliance on water resources, several watershed management plans have recently been adopted that include purposeful measures to preserve, restore, or redevelop lands that have direct impact on water quality or recreational opportunity. A Watershed Management Plan has been developed for each of the following subwatersheds in Macomb County:

1. Anchor Bay Subwatershed,
2. Clinton River East Subwatershed,
3. Stony/Paint Creek Subwatershed,
4. Red Run Subwatershed, and
5. Lake St. Clair Direct Drainage Subwatershed.

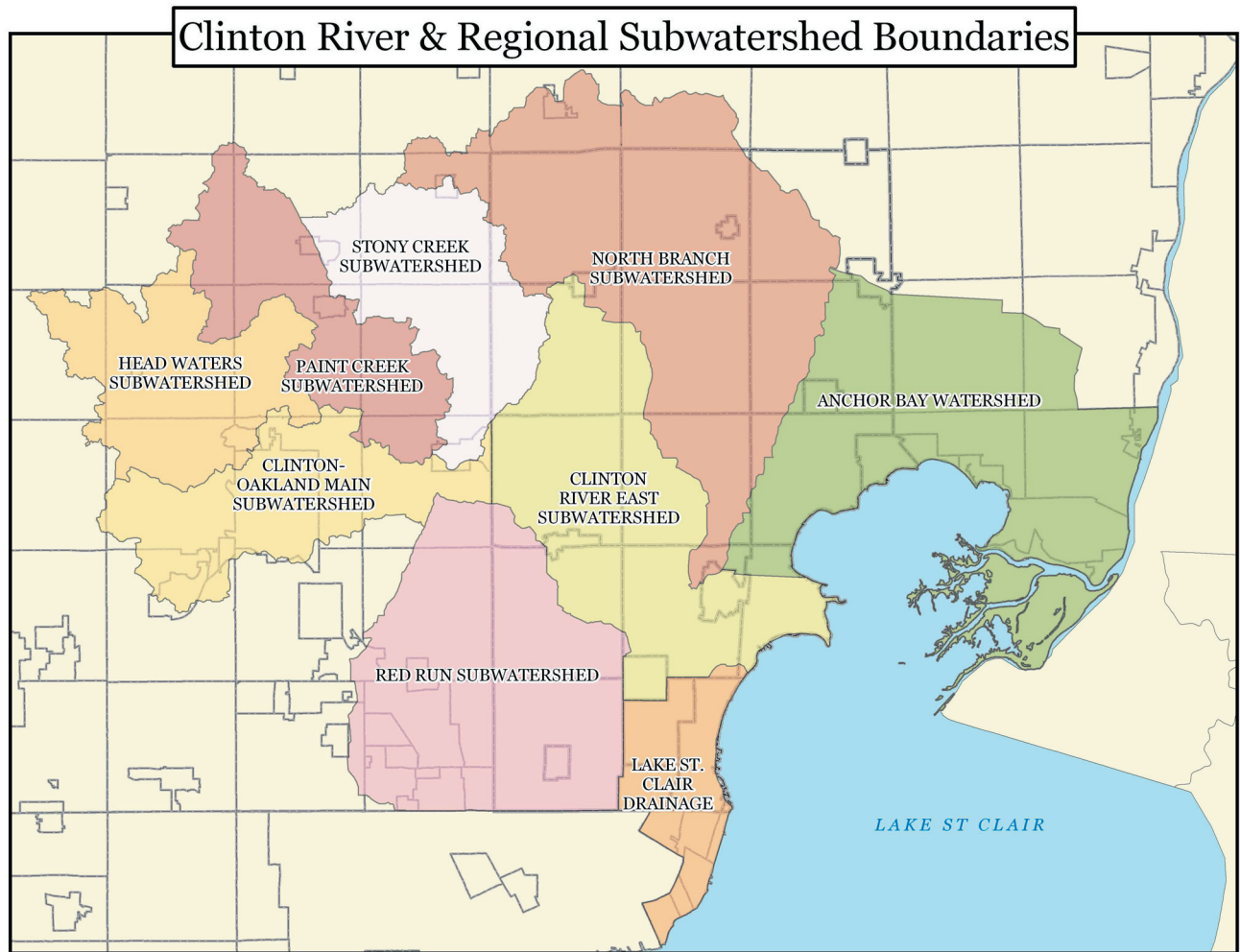
The goals of each of these plans that relate to parks, recreation, or open space planning include:

- Goals to educate and promote the protection, restoration, and enhancement of water quality of each subwatershed;
- To promote and enhance recreational opportunities in each subwatershed;

- To appropriately manage suitable habitat for aquatic life, wildlife, and fisheries in each subwatershed;
- To seek out opportunities to sustain implementation of the plan; and
- To promote opportunities to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance natural features.

The watershed plans include scores of objectives of how each local governmental agency should be able to obtain these goals, and use them in accordance with other official plans. When properly integrated into the master land use planning of a community, many decision-making policies can be addressed. So much of how effective a community can be in developing smart growth policies is truly reliant on the integration of master land use planning applications.

Figure 5-G



Macomb County Trailways Master Plan.

A countywide trailways master plan was developed by the local governments of Macomb County in 2004 through the direction of the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development. This plan represents the non-motorized buildout plan for the development of paths, trails, and other linear greenways as proposed by the local governments and special interest groups. Several levels of non-motorized trails are identified in the plan and include:

REGIONAL CORRIDORS:

Regional corridors include primary routes and corridors that connect into planned and/or built systems in adjacent counties as well as provide access to major regional destinations such as Lake St. Clair, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority parks system.

COUNTY CONNECTORS:

County connectors are routes that provide significant connections into the larger regional system and continuously traverse a considerable portion of the County in all directions.

LOCAL CONNECTORS:

Local connectors are segments within the system that lead from the regional or county system to various destinations or points of interest. Local connector segments also serve as feeder connections within a community into either the County Connectors or Regional Corridors.

BLUEWAY WATER TRAIL:

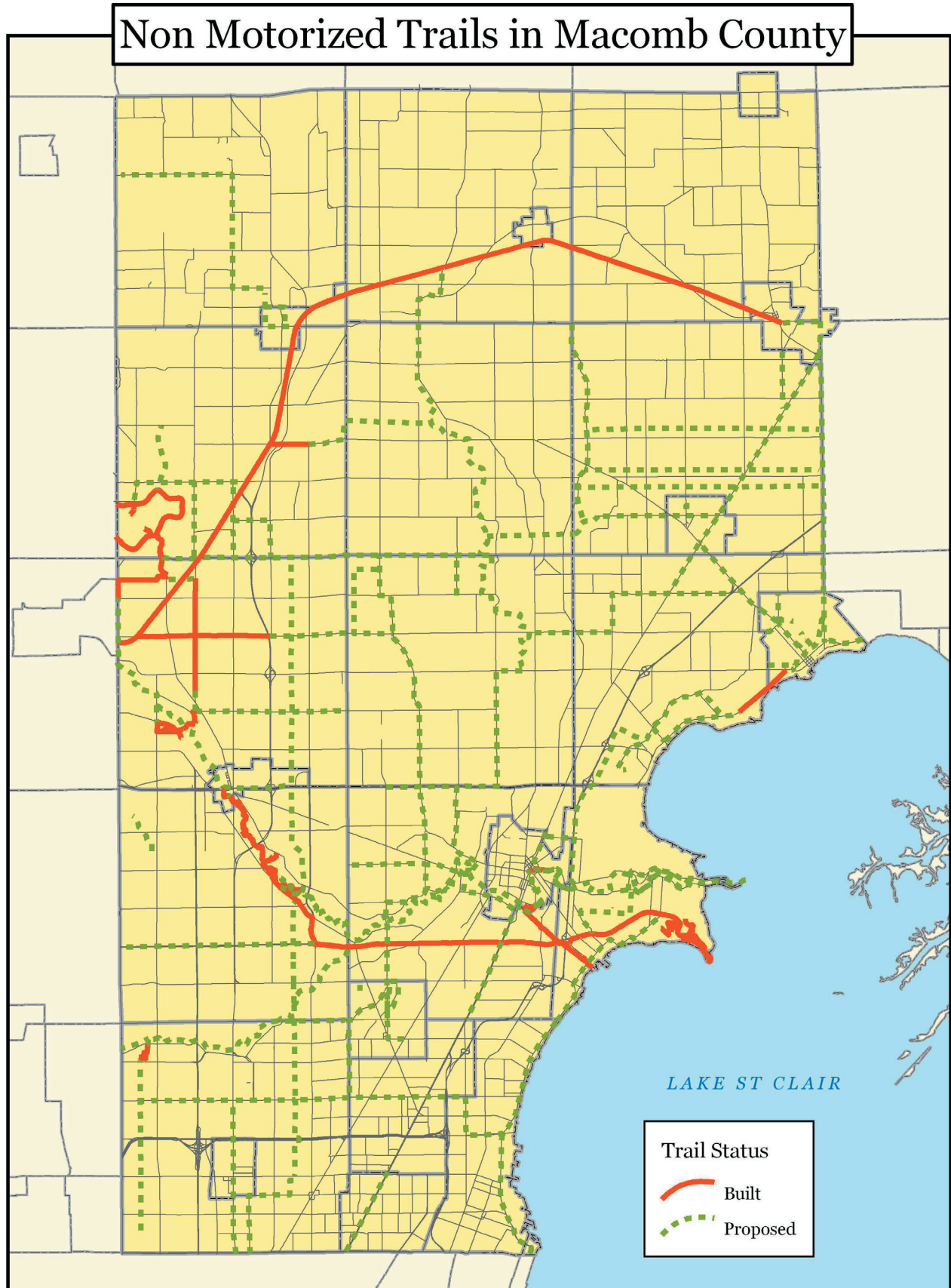
A portion of the Clinton River within Central Macomb County was discussed as a potential Blueway Water Trail. This designation is intended to allow small boats or other non-motorized water vessels access to the river. Designation as a Blueway can assist in broadening awareness and education of navigable areas and natural resources.

Macomb Orchard Trail

The Macomb Orchard Trail is scheduled for completion in the Summer of 2007. The construction of a pedestrian overpass connecting the trail at M-53 will be the final span necessary to have a complete trail from the west end of Shelby Township to the City of Richmond on the east. Although the trail will have a complete usable surface, many other items will need to be addressed to make long-term use of the trail possible. Many parking and staging areas will need to be completed as described in the Master Plan for the Macomb Orchard Trail, and other amenities that

include safety mechanisms and a wayfinding program will need to be instituted. Moreover, the maintenance and repair of the trail is a sizable issue that will need to be addressed. Although current funds are allocated by Macomb Orchard Trail Commission members, and fees are associated with easements and connections, a longer term funding strategy will need to be explored and adopted that might include an endowment that would earn interest to pay for trail maintenance, operation, and necessary repairs.

Figure 5-H



Macomb County Green Ways Vision

There is a Regional Green Ways Initiative that has been facilitated by the Southeast Michigan Community Foundation through a program named the GreenWays Initiative. This program has been very widely promoted and illustrated as a general guide for the stakeholders of this Region. Macomb County has used a more in-depth program to further the vision of a viable connective green way plan for the residents of Macomb County. The Macomb County Green Infrastructure Vision includes the network of natural lakes, streams, and rivers along with the proposed non-motorized trails network as a base. As a complement to this base, the vision then uses a compilation of significant areas of natural features such as wetlands, woodlands, steep slopes, and prominent tree rows as other means of developing a very comprehensive plan.

It is up to each jurisdiction in how to best plan to incorporate this vision into practical land planning applications. Most applications would include preservation, restoration, or delineation of areas that serve the long-term benefit of local residents. We encourage local governments to include these specific tools into their Master Land Use Plans and then develop ordinances that would assist in the development of this very beneficial vision. Regional agencies, non-profit advocacy groups, and land developers are able to use the tools and techniques available through the application of this vision to assist in sustainable development.

SEE FIGURE 5-1
IN MAPS FOLDER

Macomb County Senior Study

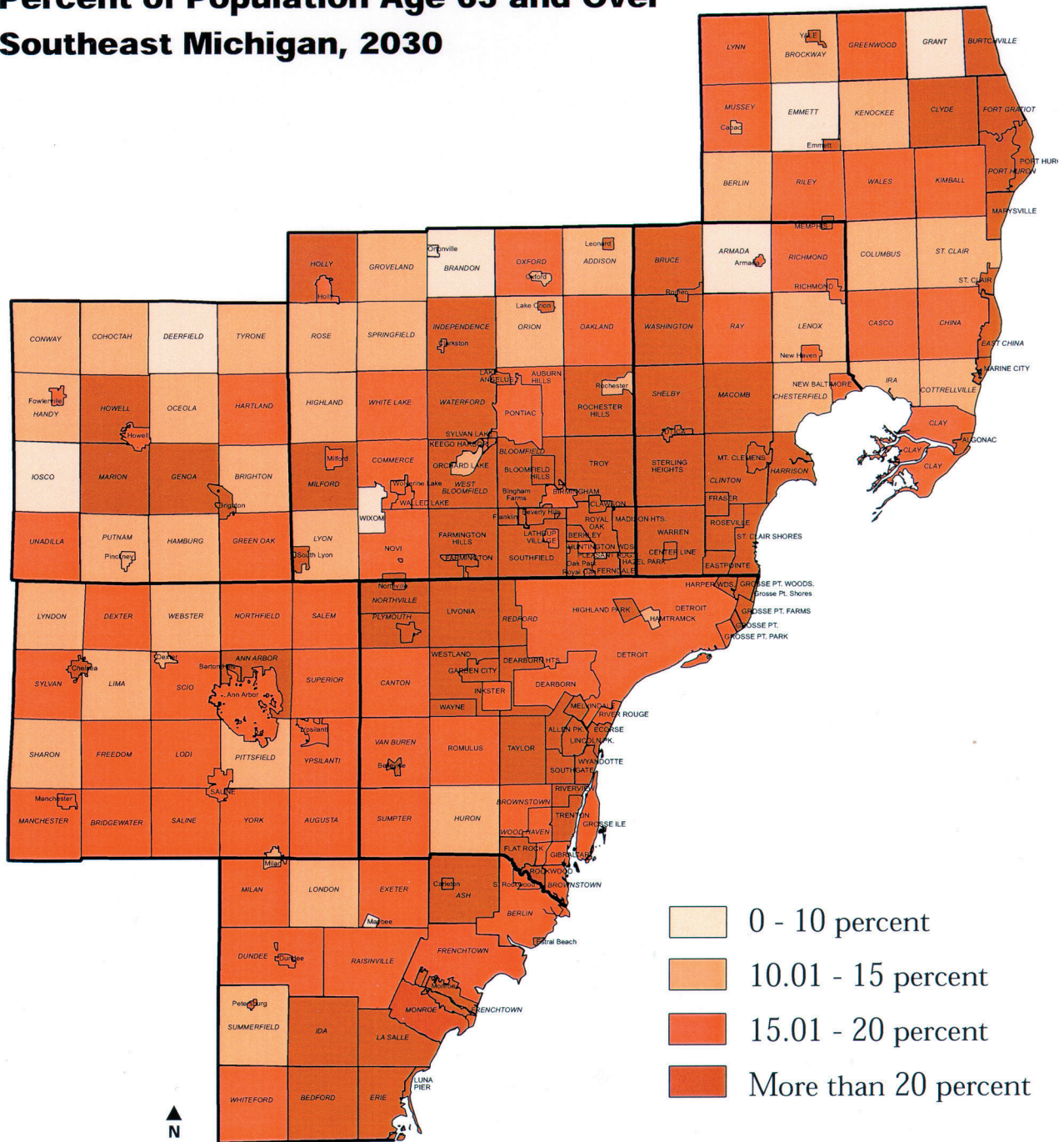
Macomb County is undergoing a study regarding the increase in senior population within the county from now until year 2030. The project encompasses the value of planning for an increased number of seniors and the changes in infrastructure, housing, medicine, and quality of life amenities to accommodate this population base. Amongst the items addressed, is the need for accessibility and proximity to shopping, medical, places of worship, health care, and recreation.

There will be an increase in the percentage of population occupied by those 65 or older from 13.7% in year 2000 to 25% by 2030. This represents an increase that nearly doubles the percentages found in the year 2000, and the actual number will increase by approximately 125,000 residents, which represents a 115% increase in the number of seniors residing in Macomb County in year 2000.

Recognition of these changes in the overall population should be addressed with parks and recreation planning across the county. Although a greater increase in senior households will occur south of M-59, a sizable change in senior households will also occur to the north. The principals gleaned from this study that directly relate to recreational planning include accessibility to the places that seniors will recreate, and include programs that will attract seniors to partake in activities that would be to their benefit. Interaction with local health care facilities should be an objective to allow for a holistic approach to these challenges.

Figure 5-J

Percent of Population Age 65 and Over Southeast Michigan, 2030



SEMCOG

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Figure 5-K

Senior Population Change 1990 - 2005

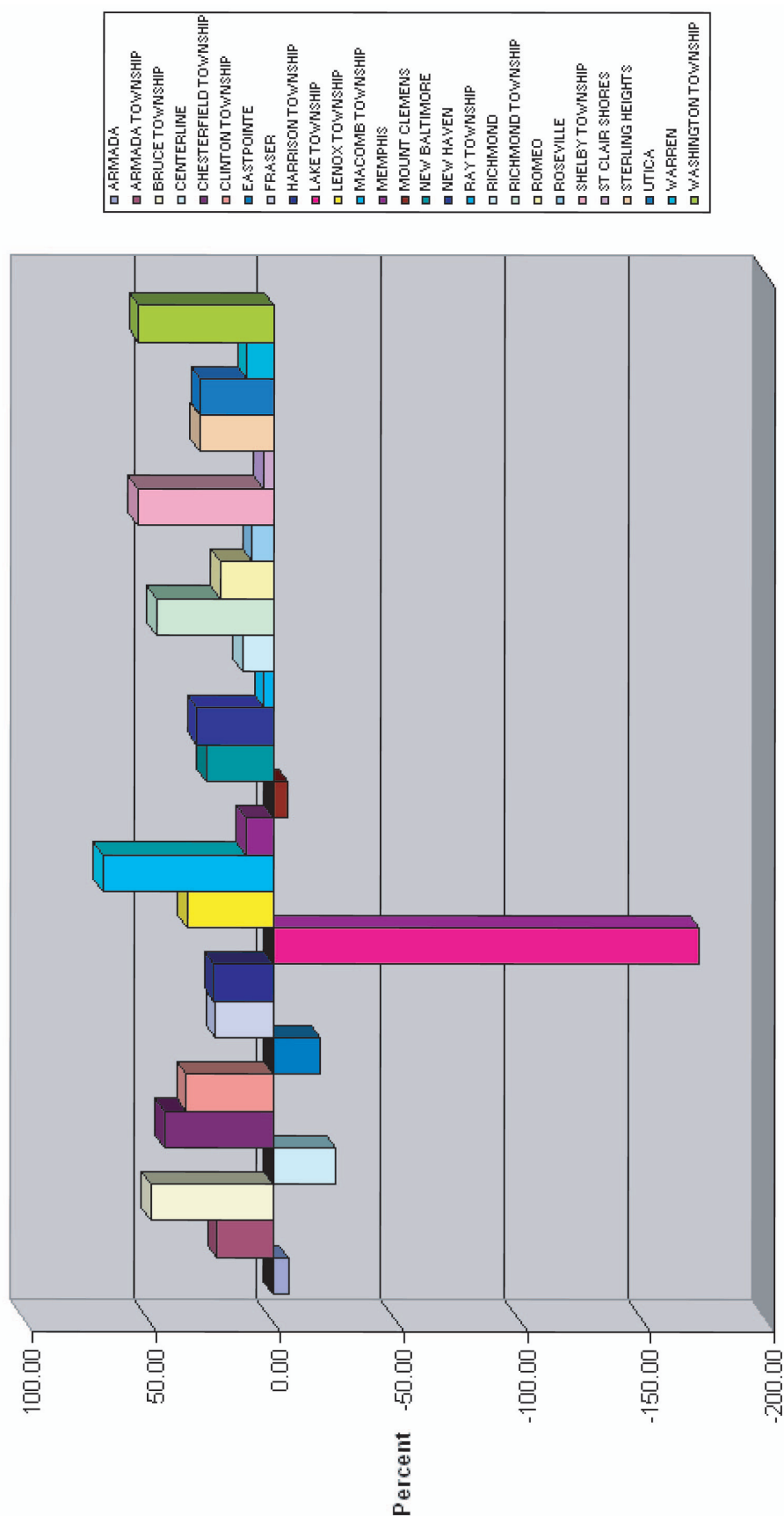
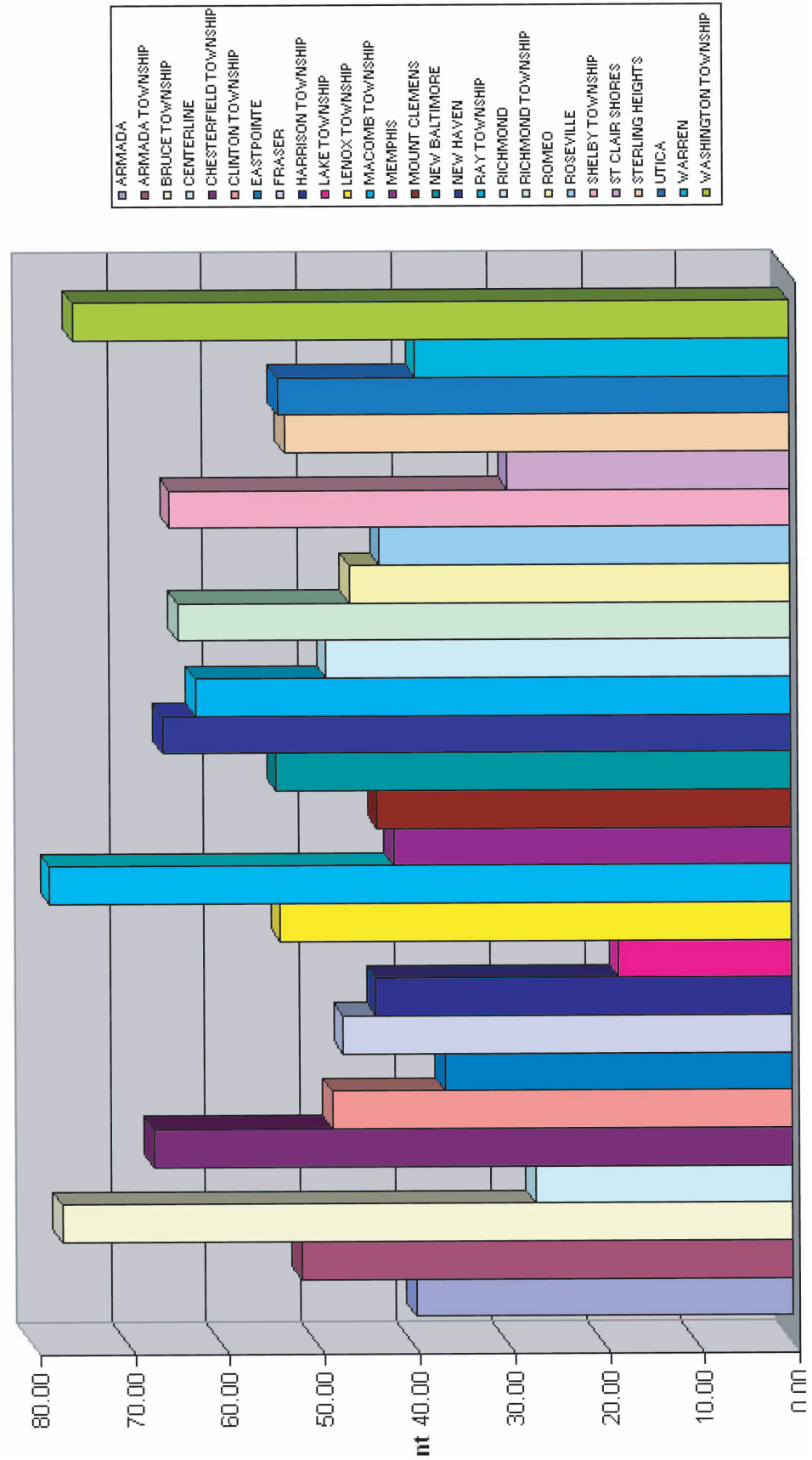


Figure 5-L

Senior Population Change 2005 - 2030



FREEDOM HILL COUNTY PARK.

Freedom Hill County Park located along Metro Parkway at the east end of Sterling Heights has many varied uses. The majority of the 100 acre park include a Festival Grounds, recreation and banquet facility, various war or veteran memorials, several wooded wetland areas, a capped brownfield landfill, and a privately operated music festival grounds and amphitheatre. Several fields or other open areas serve to provide typical recreational opportunities that include a playground, picnic shelters, and large grassy areas. Many of these fields also are used as temporary staging areas for flea markets, or overflow parking during large festivals.

While this park serves a great variety of services and activities, it has never been fully planned out to meet the many needs of the residents of Macomb County. Moreover, traffic flow for vehicles and pedestrians alike is a significant problem during well-attended events on the grounds. The memorials have been developed in a manner that allows each one to properly represent their own cause, but lack a sense of place. The wooded wetlands and the peripheral area of the park that is along the banks of the Red Run Drain have never been developed into a meaningful facility for active or passive recreation.

The Freedom Hill County Park is somewhat cramped to meet the needs of Macomb County residents. An overall facilities and operation visioning plan to allow the current uses to be more effectively used, and enhance other underutilized parts of the park, while provided greater services to allow for recreational opportunities is in great need. In addition to the Freedom Hill County Park, other large tracts of land should be sought within the County to provide for expansion of these services to the residents and should be considered along the Clinton River, or the shorelines of Lake St. Clair or Anchor Bay.

http://www.oasisnyc.net/resources/city_cncl_profiles/df/brooklyn39.pdf

<http://www.mrsc.org/Publications/levelserv.df#Page=20>

Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority: Huron-Clinton Metroparks Guide, 1999-2000.

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9064818/Lake-Saint-Clair>

Based on 2004 Macomb County Attractions Map-2004. <http://www.macombcountymi.gov/Map/macombsmallmap.htm>

Macomb County Trailways Master Plan, Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development, p. 26, 2004.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan; GreenWays Initiative, 2006-2007.